

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5 from line 9 to line 19 with the following paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 1, the optical moisture sensor 12 can be operably positionable in a spaced relationship relative to the moisture collecting surface 16. The moisture collecting surface 16 can be the exterior surface of a windshield 28 for a motor vehicle. An imaging lens 30 can be adapted for disposition between the optical moisture sensor 12 and the moisture collecting surface 16. A filter 32 can be positioned between the imaging lens 30 and the optical moisture sensor 12 to allow only illuminating wavelengths of light to pass through to the optical moisture sensor 12, greatly improving the ~~signal-to-noise~~ signal-to-noise ratio of the system. The optical moisture sensor 12 can be operably mountable with respect to a windshield 28 of a motor vehicle, as shown in Fig. 2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6 from line 12 to line 28 with the following paragraph:

The processor 14 of the present invention provides additional processing steps in contravention of the prior art by adding a call to a new subroutine after step 38 has determined the value corresponding to ambient light conditions. The subroutine according to the present invention is shown in the simplified flow diagram of Fig. 4. The subroutine starts at step 44. Step 46 compares the value to a predetermined value. The predetermined value can correspond to a minimum level of ambient light at which a motor vehicle can be safely driven without headlights. The predetermined value can be a constant number ~~of~~ or can be variable. For example, the signal 18 generated by the optical moisture sensor 12 can be affected by the temperature of the optical moisture sensor 12. The predetermined value can be determined to compensate for any such effect. If the value is less than the predetermined value, the subroutine will continue to the next step 50. If the value is equal to or greater than the predetermined value, the subroutine continues to step 52 and returns the processor 14 to the moisture detecting step 40 of Fig. 3.